

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
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SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS **JULY 9, 2009**, HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, 208 EAST MAIN STREET, LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Bud Lortz.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Joe Pirzynski, Jim Foley, John Bourgeois, Barbara Spector, Tom Spillsbury, Barbara Cardillo, Melanie Hanssen, Gordon Yamate, Deborah Weinstein, Libby Lane, Tim Lundell, Dan Ross, Perry Hirari.

Members absent: Kevin Kelly, Tom O'Donnell, Marcia Jensen

Staff present: Wendie Rooney, Director of Community Development; Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner. David Erly and Chad Martell, DCE.

Public attendees: Charles Ereksen, Ray Davis

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ray Davis commented on the lack of homeowner associations in the Town. The Town is financially in beautiful shape and will gain \$8 million from property tax and \$9 million from sales tax. He asked why property taxes are such an integral part of the Town revenue.

ITEM 1 AUGUST 8 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY

David Erly, DCE, provided information on the visual preference survey that is proposed for the August 8 community workshop. The goal this evening is to test drive the workshop and receive input from the Committee on whether it is appropriate for the upcoming workshop.

DCE will be completing the North 40 Specific Plan working with the General Plan Committee. The specific plan will be brought forward into the General Plan. The EIR is scheduled to be completed in August 2010 and will cover the General Plan and Housing Element updates and the N40SP. The schedule is ambitious and will require diligent work effort from all involved.

The Visual Preference Survey is based on discussion on the four main topics under consideration (youth, seniors, recreation, sustainability) and comments received at the April workshop. A numerical scale will be used to determine what items are most desirable. Each participant will rank each item using the scale. Everyone will evaluate all four parts.

Parks & Recreation considerations:

- Amenities for all age groups, ranging from young children to seniors
- Active and passive recreation spaces
- Facilities for organized and informal sports and recreation
- Recreational trails that are safe for youth and seniors

Images:

Community pool facility

Sports field

Sports complex

Recreational classes

Dog parks

Skate parks

Tot lots

Theme based parks

Bocce courts

Outdoor chess

Los Gatos Creek trail improvements

Creek restoration

Information kiosks (2 examples)

Open space interpretative signage

Trail design tailored to particular users

Off-road bicycle trails (multi-purpose trails)

Bike lanes (paved)

Community gardens

Pedestrian & bicycle bridge connections

Some Committee members preferred not to have two types of kiosks shown. Others preferred this approach as it provides two different examples.

Barbara Cardillo suggested adding new picnic and barbecue areas.

John Bourgeois suggested using a photo of a different pedestrian bridge, such as the Forbes Mill bridge.

Senior needs considerations:

- Aging baby boomers population of 65 and older increasing)

Images:

Indoor fitness pool
Senior fitness programs
Affordable senior housing (3 examples)
Senior shuttle
Subsidized or reduced public transit fares for seniors
Customized at home care for seniors
Design barrier-free buildings
Second units (2 examples)
Improvements to the Silver Pages (senior directory)
Intergenerational spaces in senior housing

Barbara Cardillo suggested including a better picture of barrier-free design.

Barbara Spector commented that the three photos of affordable housing need more explanation. She suggested including a one-story project.

David Erly noted that people will be informed that there are three photos of senior housing, then after the slides are viewed they will be asked which they prefer.

Tom Spillsbury commented that he liked seeing different projects as a variety of housing types are needed.

Melanie Hanssen commented that projects that are exclusively senior housing may be desirable.

Tom Spillsbury suggested including assisted living facilities.

Barbara Cardillo suggested adding improvements to and/or expansion of the existing senior center (Neighborhood Center).

James Foley commented that clarification is needed on Planned Developments.

Perry Hirari suggested adding information on income levels, and differentiating between second units and other housing options.

Bud Lortz noted that policies will be drafted from the input received at the workshop. .

John Bourgeois asked for clarification on intergenerational spaces. Tom Spillsbury said it might be something like a community room.

Youth needs considerations:

- A range of ages from toddlers through teens
- Variety of both
- Youth safety
- Recreation opportunities for youth

- Recreational and educational opportunities
- Location where youth live

Images:

Increased youth job opportunities
Youth volunteer opportunities
Bicycle trains to get kids to school
Walking school bus
Programs to promote bicycling
Improved library with youth facilities (2 examples)
Emotional support and peer mentoring programs
Youth arts programs (3 examples)
Evening activities facilities
Youth oriented areas inside shopping centers
Youth-oriented businesses (3 examples)
Youth-oriented park spaces
Interactive recreational areas
Bicycle facilities around schools
Programs promoting safe routes to school
Youth Master Plan

James Foley noted that it needs to be indicated that additional facilities are needed under some categories.

Gordon Yamate suggested adding performance venues.

Libby Lane suggested adding facilities for younger children. For example there isn't a water park or pool that is appropriate for toddlers.

Deborah Weinstein asked for clarification on youth-oriented businesses and what the concept is. Some Committee members, including Perry Hirari, Deborah Weinstein, Barbara Spector, Tom Spillsbury and Barbara Cardillo, felt it is not appropriate to encourage specific types of businesses. *Bud Lortz* noted that if a specific use is desired, such as an arcade, it could be indicated that it is encouraged in certain zones or areas.

Joe Pirzynski provided background on the American Apparel store that was not approved in the Downtown.

Melanie Hanssen suggested distinguishing between programs that are offered by Los Gatos schools versus Town efforts.

Perry Hirari suggested adding a public youth center for consideration.

Environment & Sustainability considerations:

- Accommodating pedestrians and bicycles on Town streets
- Walkability of Los Gatos

- Building, energy and water efficiency
- Improvements on public and private property

Images:

Pedestrian friendly Downtown amenities

Bicycle friendly improvements

Ample bicycle parking

Architecturally designed bicycle parking

Bicycle racks on buses

Curbside recycling

Curbside composting

Home energy rating system (rates energy efficiency in home design)

PG&E smart meters

Solar panels

Green roofs

Affordable and mixed-use housing (3 examples)

Compact housing types (2 examples)

Pedestrian friendly paths and paseos (2 examples)

Natural stormwater run-off management systems (2 examples)

Greywater systems

Rainwater catchment systems

Drought-tolerant landscaping

Artificial turf for sports fields

Green certification for businesses

Town fleet of alternative fuel vehicles

Parking and charging stations for electric vehicles

Preferred parking for alternative fuel vehicles and car share

Car share programs

Continuous sidewalks

Complete streets (include landscaping and shared space for bicycles, pedestrian and vehicles (2 examples)

Narrow Streets

Closed pedestrian-only streets

Safe routes to school

Increased bus service

VTA transit into Los Gatos

Barbara Cardillo asked for explanation on greywater systems, and requested that the photo of solar panels be replaced with a better example.

Tom Spillsbury suggested adding motorcycle and scooter parking.

Melanie Hanssen asked for clarification on solar panels and whether it applies to residential, commercial, etc.

Perry Hirari suggested adding a policy encouraging energy efficient design rather than specifying solar panels.

Dan Ross suggested bringing in photos of good examples that Committee members see in their travels.

The compilation of the surveys will be presented at the next meeting.

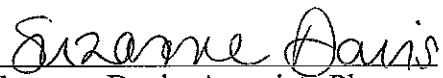
OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Prepared by:


Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner